

Message Text

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FOR POLADS

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - JANUARY 20

1. SUMMARY:

-- BOTH THE VOLUME AND THE NEGATIVE TONE OF RECENT U.S. ITEMS ARE SHARPLY LOWER;
-- ON EUROPEAN DETENTE, AN IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY AND AN INTERVIEW WITH A SOVIET PARLIAMENTARIAN TIE SOVIET/SOCIALIST FOREIGN POLICY FIRMLY TO DETENTE AND PEACEFUL CHANGE;
-- THE SAME LINE IS APPLIED SPECIFICALLY TO SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS;
-- ANGOLA COVERAGE ALSO DROPS OFF, WITH SHORT ITEMS ON MPLA MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSES AND TALK OF A FORTHCOMING SOUTH AFRICAN ANNOUNCEMENT;
-- ON LEBANON, THE MEDIA REPORT PM KARAME'S RESIGNATION, IMPLY CRITICISM OF A MORE ACTIVE ARMY ROLE AND REPORT ISRAELI PRESS COMMENTS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF WIDER WAR.

2. U.S. ON THE DAY OF THE SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL, CENTRAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THE U.S. (AND CRITICAL TONE OF PAST FEW DAYS) DROPS OFF SHARPLY. MOST ANTI-WESTERN MATERIAL IS COVERED WITH THE NATO LABEL; IZVESTIYA (JAN 19) AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (JAN 20) CARRY STRAIGHT PIECES ON THE OPENING OF CONGRESS; AND PRAVDA (JAN 20) AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (FRONT PAGE) CARRY GLOWING ACCOUNT OF NASA ANNUAL REPORT STRESSING JOINT ACHIEVEMENT AND BENEFIT OF SOYUZ-APOLLO. AT SAME TIME, IZVESTIYA REPLAYS WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS ON HOW INFLATION RATE WILL STAY HIGH IN 1976, AND TREATMENT OF U.S. IN ANGOLA COVERAGE CONTINUES TOUGH. FROM HELSINKI, YURIY KUZNETSOV REPORTS ON SCANDINAVIAN PRESS CRITICISMS OF U.S. APPROACH TO ANGOLA, HIGHLIGHTING "AFTENBLADET" STATE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT THAT IN ANGOLA AS IN ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA IN GENERAL, AMERICAN LEADERS SEEK TO SMOTHER PATRIOTIC FORCES FIGHTING FOR BASIC NATIONAL LIBERATION.

3. DETENTE AND SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. LONG COMMENTARY BY Z. MIRSKIY IN JAN 19 IZVESTIYA STRESSES STRENGTH OF "SOCIALIST" CAMP AS BASIS AND GUARANTEE OF DETENTE POLICY, BUT IS EXCEPTIONALLY FIRM ON CONTINUATION OF DETENTE

AND CRITICISM OF WAR AS POLICY INSTRUMENT. ON
DETENTE, MIRSKIY LEADS WITH STATEMENT THAT "OUR
PLANET LIVES UNDER SIGN OF DETENTE, ENTERING A NEW
STAGE OF ITS DEVELOPMENT AFTER THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE,
WHICH SETS TONE FOR ARTICLE DESPITE FAMILIAR
REFERENCES TO WESTERN OPPONENTS. TO PROVE THAT
"SOCIALIST FOREIGN POLICY" IS NECESSARILY PEACEFUL,
HE RESORTS TO (A RARE) CITATION FROM CPSU PARTY
PROGRAM: "COMMUNISTS NEVER CONSIDERED AND DO NOT
CONSIDER THAT THE PATH TO REVOLUTION NECESSARILY
PASSES VIA WAR BETWEEN STATES...THE GREAT GOALS OF
THE WORKING CLASS CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT WORLD WAR."
IZVESTIYA ALSO PRINTS TASS INTERVIEW WITH SUPREME SOVIET
CHAIRMAN SHITIKOV WRAPPING UP FRG VISIT IN
WHICH HE SAYS "ONE CANNOT DOUBT THAT THE UPCOMING
25TH CPSU CONGRESS WILL CONFIRM THE PEACELOVING
DIRECTION OF THE SOVIET UNION'S FOREIGN POLICY WITH
ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY (COVSEY OPREDELENNOST'YU)."

4. SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS. IN SAME INTERVIEW, SHITIKOV
CAREFULLY WARNS ABOUT NEED TO RESPECT EXISTING ACCORDS
AND OBLIGATIONS, BUT SEEMS AT PAINS TO REAFFIRM
SOVIET COMMITMENT TO GOOD RELATIONS: "WITHOUT THE
MOSCOW TREATY, WITHOUT STRICT AND UNDEVIATING
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRINCIPLES ESTABLISHED IN IT,
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE FRG WOULD HAVE
NO PERSPECTIVES...(BUT) THE LINE FOR DEVELOPMENT
OF RELATIONS OF PEACEFUL MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS
COOPERATION WITH THE FRG IS ONE OF PRINCIPLE AND NOT
OF CIRCUMSTANCE IN USSR POLICY. THIS LINE EXPRESSES
THE ESSENCE OF OUR LONG-TERM PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS, AS IT WAS FORMULATED AT THE CPSU 24TH
CONGRESS." COMMENT. NEITHER IZVESTIYA NOR SHITIKOV
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ARE AS AUTHORITATIVE AS OTHER SOVIET ORGANS, BUT A
DESIRE TO KEEP RELATIONS ON AN EVEN KEEL SEEMS
APPARENT FROM THE STRENGTH OF THE STATEMENTS AND
THE FACT THAT THEY EMBED BILATERAL RELATIONS IN
GENERAL SOVIET POLICY. END COMMENT.

5. ANGOLA. MEDIA REPORTS ARE FEWER AND SHORTER,
WITH A TASS ITEM FROM LUANDA REPORTING MPLA SUCCESSES
IN THE NORTH, AND FURTHER FIGHTING IN THE EAST AND
SOUTH. TASS CITES SPECULATION THAT SOUTH AFRICA
WOULD SOON PUBLISH A STATEMENT ON ITS "INTERVENTION
IN ANGOLA." IZVESTIYA CARRIES A PHOTO ALLEGEDLY
OF U.S., FRENCH AND CHINESE WEAPONS CAPTURED IN
ANGOLA, AND THE SAME NEWSPAPER REPORTS GUYANA'S
RECOGNITION OF THE LUANDA REGIME.

6. LEBANON. PRAVDA FEATURES REPORTS ON THE CONTINUING CRISIS, INCLUDING PM KARAME'S RESIGNATION AND THE BREAKDOWN OF THE MOST RECENT CEASEFIRE. THE ITEM SAYS THAT GROUPS ARMED BY "RIGHTIST PARTIES" SEEK TO OPEN A NEW FRONT AND CHARGES THAT THE ANTI-PATRIOTIC FORCES ARE MAKING MORE ACTIVE USE OF THE ARMY. THE ARTICLE ALSO RAISES THE DANGER OF WIDER WAR BY CITING ISRAELI OFFICIAL AND PRESS COMMENTS THAT ISRAEL WOULD "NOT BE PATIENT" WITH ANY ARAB ATTEMPT TO CONTROL OR DIVIDE LEBANON. STOESSEL

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